ful beauty and childlike joyousness of spirit behind all his multifarious gifts. He rejoiced to be the friend as well as the teacher of the young. He kept his heart free from all bitterness and disillusion which come so often to us in our later years. He knew and felt always how beautiful and great a thing it was to be alive.

Oliver J. Lodge.

NOTES.

Dr. G. T. Beilby, Prof. A. Keith, F.R.S., and Mr. J. Swinburne, F.R.S., have been elected members of the Athenæum Club under the rule which empowers the annual election by the committee of a certain number of persons "of distinguished eminence in science, literature, the arts, or for public services."

By the death of Mrs. Huxley on March 5, in her eighty-ninth year, another link with the scientific society of the latter half of the nineteenth century has been snapped. All who had the happiness of knowing Huxley intimately are aware of the reliance which he at all times reposed on the advice and judgment of his lifelong helpmate. Not only in all domestic concerns, but in questions of literary criticism and even of scientific procedure, he never took a step without consulting her, and her wide knowledge and keen literary instincts made her aid invaluable to him. As is well known, the young surgeon of the *Rattlesnake* found a kindly welcome in the house of Mr. W. Fanning, a merchant in Sydney; and the half-sister of the merchant's wife, Miss Henrietta Heathorn, who had come out to Australia four years earlier, won his affections, though eight years had to elapse before the marriage could take place. Strange to say, Mrs. Huxley's health was a constant source of anxiety to her husband; he believed that an Australian medical man had so injudiciously treated a complaint from which she suffered as to have fatally undermined her constitution, but, nevertheless, she has survived Huxley himself by nearly twenty years. Mrs. Huxley wrote some very striking and thoughtful poems, nonsense verses, for the amusement of her children and grandchildren, and laughable stories, illustrated by one of her gifted daughters, with the same object; she will, however, be best remembered by the little work containing judiciously selected passages from her husband's writings, the admirable "Aphorisms and Reflections from the Writings of T. H. Huxley."

The Hon. Francis Albert Rollo Russell, whose death on March 30 we announced with regret last week, was the third son of the first Earl Russell. He was born on July 11, 1849, and was educated at Harrow and at Christ Church, Oxford. As a youth he became interested in meteorological phenomena, and when about fifteen or sixteen years of age he began keeping records of the weather, especially of clouds and optical phenomena. He became a fellow of the Royal Meteorological Society in 1868, and served on the council from 1879 to 1892, and again in 1914, and was a vice-president in 1893–94. He was a fellow of the Royal Sanitary Institute, and served on the council in 1881–82, and again in 1889–92. Mr. Russell was the author of several works and papers on meteorological subjects, and also on matters connected with public health. He took a great interest in the question of London fogs, and was an advocate for the abatement of coal smoke. In conjunction with the late Mr. Douglas Archibald, he made a report to the Royal Society on the unusual optical phenomena of the atmosphere, 1883–6, including twilight effects, coronal appearances, sky haze, coloured suns and moons, etc., which were due to the volcanic eruption of Krakatoa. For his memoir, "The Atmosphere in Relation to Human Life and Health" (148 pp.), which was submitted to the Hodgkins Fund prize competition of the Smithsonian Institution, he was awarded honourable mention with a silver medal. Among his other works may be mentioned "The Spread of Influenza: its Supposed Relation to Atmospheric Conditions" (1891), "On Hail" (1893), and "The Early Correspondence of Lord John Russell," which was published last year.

The seventieth birthday, on March 25, of Prof. Adolf Engler, the director of the Royal Botanic Garden and Museum at Dahlem, near Berlin, was celebrated in the presence of many eminent German and foreign botanists, by several functions. On the day itself, Prof. Lindau spoke on behalf of the scientific staff of the garden and museum. Prof. Pax, rector of the University of Breslau, with Profs. Diels and Gilg, as its editors, presented to Prof. Engler a copy of the *Fest-Band* of Engler's "Botanische Jahrbücher." The volume forms a supplement to the fiftieth volume of this well-known publication, and consists of more than forty illustrated contributions, largely from his pupils. The volume will be a lasting memorial of appreciation of Prof. Engler's botanical position, not only in Germany, but also in both hemispheres. As a further mark of this appreciation, Prof. Haberlandt presented Prof. Engler, on behalf of hundreds of subscribers, with his life-size marble bust, the work of the sculptor, A. Manthe, while Prof. Wittmack (to whom we owe these particulars, and the celebration much of its success) read the congratulatory address of the Deutsche Botanische Gesellschaft. Following similar addresses from the Vereinigung für angewandte Botanik, and from the Freie Vereinigung, an album of views of all the meeting places of the systematists was presented. Prof. Warming spoke on behalf of the foreign botanists. The presidents of the German Horticulture and of the Dendrological Societies added their felicitations, and it was announced that Prof. Engler had been made an honorary member of several learned societies in Germany, Russia, and other countries. On March 26 there was a banquet at which the official world was represented; and on March 27 the monthly meeting of the Deutsche Botanische Gesellschaft was converted into an "Engler" meeting, and Prof. von Wettstein gave, by special invitation, a lecture on the phylogenetic evolution of the Angiosperm flower.

In connection with the establishment of a meteorological observatory at Agra for upper-air observations, the *Pioneer Mail* states that the Government of India has decided that the observatory shall be called the "Aerological Observatory, Agra," and that Mr. J. H. Field, Imperial meteorologist, while in charge of this work shall be designated the director of the observatory, and Mr. W. A. Harwood, the assistant-director.

AT the suggestion of Mr. R. H. Tiddeman, president of the Yorkshire Geological Society, arrangements are being made by the society to call a conference next autumn, in Leeds, to consider the question of the glacial geology of the north of England. The conference will last a week, and in addition to papers and discussions, excursions will be made during the day to various centres of importance in connection with the glaciation of the north of England. Glacialists from all parts of the country will be invited to attend. A committee has been elected to make all the necessary arrangements.

THROUGH the generosity of M. Spendiaroff, of St. Petersburg, the International Geological Congress presents at each session a prize amounting to about 450 roubles (47*l.*) for the best work in some specified field of geology. The next prize will be awarded at the session in Belgium in 1917 for the best work in petrography giving new light on the general problems of the science. Two copies, at least, of any work presented for the competition must be sent to the general secretary of the last congress, Mr. R. W. Brock, Deputy Minister of Mines, Ottawa, Canada, at least one year before the next session.

THE septennial award under the Acton Endowment has this year been made by the Royal Institution to Prof. C. S. Sherrington, Wayneflete professor of physiology in the University of Oxford, for his work entitled "The Integrative Action of the Nervous System," being a synopsis of his elaborate paper published in the Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society on experiments in examination of the peripheral distribution of the fibres of the posterior roots of some spinal nerves. Previous Actonian awards have been made to Sir George Stokes, Miss Agnes M. Clerke, Sir William and Lady Huggins, and Madame Curie, for achievements in the field of physical science. Prof. Sherrington is the first investigator in experimental biology to receive this distinction for the third of a century.

WE regret to learn that the recent fire at Wellesley College, Massachusetts, though happily unattended by loss of life, destroyed the results of several years of research work. For the last six years Prof. Marion E. Hubbard has been investigating the problem of variation and heredity in beetles. The disaster swept away in a few moments all her notes and specimens, as well as a valuable original apparatus she had constructed for the purpose of her observations. Prof. Alice Robertson, head of the department of zoology, similarly lost all the specimens and notes relating to a collection of bryozoa dredged up by the *Albatross* expedition. Prof. C. B. Thompson, of the same department, has lost the results of similar work on dredgings bv the Bureau of Fisheries and the University of California, together with the memoranda of three years' experiments on the brains of ants and a collection of 4000 slides which had taken eight years to prepare.

THE programme has just been issued of the annual meeting of the Iron and Steel Institute, to be held on Thursday and Friday, May 7–8. On May 7 the retiring president, Mr. Arthur Cooper, will induct into the chair the president-elect, Mr. Adolphe Greiner; the Bessemer gold medal for 1914 will be presented to Mr. Edward Riley; the president will deliver his inaugural address; and a selection of papers will be read and discussed. On May 8 the Andrew Carnegie gold medal (for 1913) will be presented to Dr. T. Swinden, the award of research scholarships for the current year will be announced, and other papers will be read and discussed. Among the papers that are expected to be submitted for reading and discussion are:—"The Forms in which Sulphides may Exist in Steel Ingots," Prof. J. O. Arnold and G. R. Bolsover; "The Hardening of Metals, with Special Reference to Iron and its Alloys," Dr. C. A. Edwards and Prof. H. C. H. Carpenter; "Influence of Molybdenum upon the Corrodibility of Steel," Dr. J. N. Friend and C. W. Marshall; "The Magnetic and Mechanical Properties of Manganese Steels," Sir Robert A. Hadfield and Prof. B. Hopkinson; and "A New Reagent for Etching Mild Steel," Dr. W. Rosenhain and J. L. Haughton.

THE President of the Scientific Association of Rhodesia regrets in his annual address for 1913 that no attempt has been yet made to organise an anthropological survey of the State. He suggests the preparation of tribal and linguistic maps as a preliminary measure. Some good work is being done by the members under the difficulties which attend research in a new country. The report publishes two excellent ethnological and sociological papers on the Matabele, by Mr. P. Nielsen, and the people of the Zambezi valley, by Mr. C. I. Macnamara, which give valuable accounts of tribal organisation, initiation ceremonies, and marriage rites, which deserve the attention of anthropologists.

THE fine collection of glacial boulders now preserved in the grounds of Messrs. Cadbury, at Bournville, Birmingham, is described by Prof. C. Lapworth in part ii., vol. xviii., of the Proceedings of the Cotteswold Naturalists' Field Club for 1913. After describing the advance of the ice-sheet into the midlands, and the numerous boulders conveyed by its action into the Birmingham district, the writer states that the collection at Bournville consists of masses of dark igneous Plutonic rock, usually known as felsite or andesite, identical with the rock which forms a large part of the Arenig mountain ranges, several miles west of Bala Lake, in the basin of the river Dee, North Wales, and fully fifty miles, as the crow flies, from Bournville.

To the March *Zoologist* Col. C. E. Shepherd communicates the first part of an article on methods of determining the position of the auditory sacculus and its contained otoliths in various groups of fishes.

IN an article on the effect of geographical distribution on the development of species, published in the March number of the *American Naturalist*, Mr. A. C.

Chandler enunciates a law that as the distributional area of any given group of animals increases, the number of species increases in proportion to the genera, that of genera to the families, and so on. The theoretical explanation of this law involves the consideration of problems relating to evolution and species-development.

Three important additions to the Natural History Branch of the British Museum are recorded in the March number of the *Museums Journal,* namely, a series of more than 900 zeolites collected and presented by Mr. F. N. A. Fleischmann, a collection of 800 specimens of plants made in the Eket district of Southern Nigeria by Mr. and Mrs. P. A. Talbot, by whom they were presented, together with descriptions and coloured sketches, and, lastly, a collection of more than 10,000 specimens of Hymenoptera (including 1500 types), brought together by the late Mr. P. Cameron, and purchased from his executors.

The most interesting feature in the March number of the New York Zoological Society's Bulletin is Mr. Townsend's account of the capture and transport of the bottle-nosed dolphins, or porpoises (*Tursiops tursio*) in the New York Aquarium. There is a regular fishery of these cetaceans at Cape Hatteras, N. Carolina, and in November last a small "school" of them was captured and dispatched to New York in special water-tanks. Nine reached their destination in safety, and of these five were alive and in excellent health at the time the article was written. They are kept in a salt-water pond of 37 ft. in diameter by about 7 ft. in depth, and constitute a unique and highly attractive exhibit.

Amphibians and reptiles loom large in the March number of Douglas English's *Wild Life,* Mr. E. G. Boulenger communicating an exquisitely illustrated article on some of the well-known species of European toads, while in a second he figures the first living example of the saddle-backed giant tortoise (*Testudo abingdoni*), of Abingdon Island, Galapagos group, received alive in this country. In a note regarding other giant species the author mentions that about 1760 no fewer than 25,000 of these chelonians were exported from Rodriguez to Mauritius for food in a single year. Little wonder that the species of the former island soon became exterminated. In connection with giant tortoises, it may be mentioned that remains of an extinct species from the Pleistocene of Minorca are described by Miss Bate in the March number of the *Geological Magazine.*

A new serial, of the first number of which we have received a copy, has been started at Buitenzorg, under the editorship of Dr. J. C. Koningsberger, and published by the Department of Agriculture, Industry, and Commerce, with the title of "Contributions à la Faune des Indes Néerlandaises." It is specially intended for papers emanating from the Zoological Museum and Laboratory of Buitenzorg, and the Biological Station at Batavia, which have hitherto appeared in another local publication. The new issue appears, however, as a section of the well-known "'s Lands Plantentuin," dating from 1817. Its contents include an article by Dr. C. P. Sluiter on holothurians collected by Mr. P. N. van Kampen in the Malay Archipelago, and a list of chelonians from the Dutch East Indies in the Buitenzorg Museum.

In a recent number of the *Memorias do Instituto Oswaldo Cruz* (vol. v., part 2), a memoir, illustrated by beautiful coloured plates, is published by Drs. Aragao and Vianna on the disease known as *Granuloma venereum.* The authors deny that a treponeme is the cause of the disease, which is quite distinct from syphilis. They associate the disease with a peculiar bacterium occurring in the cells of the granulomatous tissue. The most striking characteristic of this organism is the possession of a peculiar capsule, for which reason they propose to put it in a distinct genus, Kalymmabacterium (or Calymmatobacterium; the name is spelt in both these ways in the same paragraph). The authors have obtained very remarkable success in the treatment of this disease with injections of tartar-emetic; they state that this treatment has effected a complete cure in every case treated by them, and the photographs given of cases before and after treatment are quite astounding. Full descriptions are given of a number of cases and of the progress of the treatment. Incidentally, it is mentioned that injections of tartar emetic have been found most efficacious in the treatment of leishmanioses in Brazil.

The Carnegie Institution of Washington has published together a paper by Prof. W. E. Castle, "Reversion in Guinea-pigs and its Explanation," and one by C. C. Little, "Experimental Studies of the Inheritance of Color in Mice" (Publication No. 179, issued September, 1913). Prof. Castle shows that some red guinea-pigs when mated with black give blacks, black being dominant, but that other apparently similar reds when mated with blacks give agouti. A series of breeding experiments proves that the cause of the difference is that some reds contain a factor which brings about striping in the hair. It has no effect in the red, from which black pigment is absent, but black, in the presence of the striping factor, becomes agouti. Mr. Little's paper adds some new and probably valuable ideas to the already extensive literature of coat-colour in mice. He points out that yellow, brown, and black pigment are produced by three successive stages of oxidation of a chromogen. He suggests that albinos lack the factor *Y* (yellow) which produces the first stage, and that the higher factors *Br* (brown) and *B* (black) are then unable to act. Brown is produced by the presence of *Y* and *Br,* black by *Y, Br,* and *B.* Yellow, which in all the cases he has used is dominant to other colours, is caused by a factor inhibiting the action of *Br* and *B.* There are in addition two classes of "distributive" factors. One of these causes full development of pigment; its absence causes dilute colour. Another is necessary for full development of *Br* and *B*; in its absence the mice are pink-eyed with pale-coloured hair. Both these factors are somewhat variable in intensity. The other pair of distributive factors are that for the agouti barring of the hair, and that which more or less completely inhibits *Br* and *B,* giving dominant yellows. The question of piebalding is also dealt with, and many pages of tables of experimental results are included.

The unexpected discovery of hot springs and evidences of recent volcanic activity in Spitsbergen is described and illustrated by A. Hoel and O. Holtedahl in *Naturen* for January, 1913. The occurrences are in Wood Bay, on the little visited north coast of the main island. The springs have formed characteristic travertine basins, in which a species of Chara is recorded, with a moss and twelve algal species which are equally new to the high arctic flora. The characteristic forms in the moving soils of Spitsbergen, with their walls of stones set in circular cracks, are described by W. Meinardus in the *Sitzungsberichte des Naturhistorischen Verein der preuss. Rheinlande u. Westfalens,* 1912 (published 1913), C, p. 1. A useful bibliography is appended. B. Högbom points out the various features in Spitsbergen that indicate the dryness and the desert-character of present conditions in the island (Bull. Geol. Institution of the Univ. of Upsala, vol. xi., p. 242), and A. Smith Woodward describes Lower Triassic fish-remains from Sassen Bay in the same volume.

The Messina earthquake of December 28, 1908, originated in two foci, both beneath the Straits of Messina, one at its northern entrance, the other between Reggio and Messina. Almost exactly four years later, on December 22, 1912, a strong earthquake occurred, probably within the latter focus. According to Dr. Agammennone, who describes the earthquake in a recent number of the *Rivista di Astronomia,* the shock was not announced by any early tremors; it disturbed an area only 135 miles in diameter; but, though its intensity at Messina was 7 (Mercalli scale), the shock failed to damage buildings erected in accordance with the new regulations.

We are glad to learn that the United States have again decided to send revenue cutters to the vicinity of Newfoundland Banks for the purpose of reporting on the conditions of the ice. The *Seneca* has already taken up her position, and is sending wireless reports to the Hydrographic Office in New York, in addition to which she will make oceanographic observations while cruising in that district. The meteorological charts of the North Atlantic issued by the offices at London and Hamburg for April show that drift ice has recently increased to a considerable extent. Bergs or field ice were seen on or before February 15 nearly so far south as 42° N., and nearly so far east as 41° W. Several ships have had to alter their course, considerably, off the Newfoundland Banks.

The question whether thermometers in the double-louvred "Stevenson" screen, now generally used in this country give true measurements of air temperature has been discussed in *Symons's Meteorological Magazine* for several months past. Mr. W. F. A. Ellison considers that the accuracy that some observers are striving for is fallacious, and that on a sunny day no two adjacent masses of air have the same temperature. An important communication from Dr. John Aitken appears in the March number. He considers that, although the whole mass of air is a mixture of more or less heated patches, the thermometers in the screen in question fairly represent the mean temperature, but that the screen must always read higher than the true temperature, while the sun shines. He points out the important fact that some of the screens in use in the north and south of the country are not similar in construction in all respects.

English readers of Italian scientific journals have often been rather puzzled when they have come across such names as Giuseppe Larmor, Guglielmo Ostwald, or Enrico Poincaré. From a note published in *Isis,* vol. i., part 4, p. 707 (1914), by Aldo Mieli, we are glad to learn that this practice is being discontinued, and he now opens the further question as to how uniformity can be obtained in the spelling of classical names and others possessing different alphabets from ours. Here it is suggested that the nominative case should be universally adopted, and in the case of Greek a uniform system of equivalents for the Greek letters should be adopted. In this list he still adheres to the custom of replacing the Greek *ph* by *f*.

Articles of a semi-popular character *about* mathematics, as distinct from papers *on* mathematics, are not so common as they deserve to be. The February number of the new quarterly, *Isis* (vol. i., part 4) goes a long way to supply this want. Mathematics is represented by three of the five principal articles. M. George Sarton writes on modern tendencies in mathematical history and criticises the recent works of M. Leon Brunschvicg (Paris: Felix Alcan, 1912) and M. Pierre Boutroux (Paris: Hermann, 1913–14), both of which volumes are also reviewed in this number. In Prof. Gino Loria's paper on the glories of British mathematics, which was read at the International Congress of Historical Studies in London in 1913, the author laments the scarcity of literature dealing with the history of English mathematics, and expresses the opinion that many valuable and interesting manuscripts are waiting to be unearthed. Mr. P. E. Jourdain writes on the origin of Cauchy's conceptions of a definite integral and of a continuous function. In addition there are a number of reviews of mathematical books. The subscription to *Isis* is 24 francs per annum, and the offices are at Wondelgem les Gand, Belgium. Messrs. Max Drechsel, of Berne, are agents.

The photographs of the tracks of α and β particles obtained by Mr. C. T. R. Wilson with his cloud apparatus illustrate so well the properties of these radiations, that many teachers will be glad to know the Cambridge Scientific Instrument Company is now producing copies of them in the form of lantern slides. The clearness of the photographs raises the hope that it may be possible to obtain stereoscopic photographs which would enable depth to be estimated, or possibly kinema views which, when run through the lantern slowly, would allow the sequence of events to be followed.

Although the incandescent electric lamp when standardised and used with accurate ammeters has proved the most trustworthy standard of light, the

Bureau of Standards at Washington has selected the Harcourt 10-candle pentane lamp as the best of the gas-flame lamps to serve as a secondary standard. This decision has been arrived at after an extensive test of the various lamps, and the conclusions with regard to the best method of using the standard are embodied in a paper by Messrs. E. C. Crittenden and A H. Taylor, which appears in the tenth volume of the bulletin. They cover the question of the fuel and the effects of pressure and moisture on the candle-power.

A successful modification of General Sterneck's pendulum apparatus has been designed and employed by Sig. Vincenzo Reina and Gino Cassinis in the determination of gravity (relative) at Rome, Arcetri (Florence), Livorno and Genoa in Italy, and also at Vienna and Potsdam (*Memorie R. Acc. Lincei*, series v., vol. ix., No. 17, pp. 751–839). In the earlier forms, such, for instance, as those used in the gravimetric survey of the Indian Peninsula, and more recently in Egypt, the pendulum support is a solidly constructed tripod resting on and clamped to a masonry pillar. Although maximum rigidity is aimed at, yet under the alternating strains induced by the swinging pendulums the support is found to be appreciably yielding, and the determination of the effect of flexure constitutes one of the necessary pieces of preliminary work. It is obtained by observing the oscillation of the invariable pendulum induced by a heavier synchronous (variable) auxiliary pendulum swinging in the same plane (method of Schumann). In the Italian modification the means for applying this method is made an inherent feature of the design. The trustworthiness of the correction is increased by securing (1) greater equilibrium in the distribution of parts, (2) that the correction is obtained with the invariable pendulum swinging in the position used in the actual determinations. These improvements are realised by mounting the single perforated agate plate on which the knife edges of the pendulums bear when they are in motion on two consoles, which can be bolted to a vertical surface. Only one invariable pendulum is swung at a time. With this arrangement the effect of flexure is less than one-tenth of that of the tripod type, the maximum correction of nine different groups being $-3{\cdot}9 \times 10^{-7}$ secs., whilst the minimum was $-1{\cdot}5 \times 10^{-7}$ secs.

We have received a reprint of a paper read before the eleventh International Congress of Pharmacy, held at Scheveningen last September, by Prof. Hans Haller, of Leyden, on the application of comparative phytochemistry to systematic botany. Illustrations are given of the growing importance of a knowledge of the chemical substances elaborated by plants in elucidating vexed questions of classification and in throwing light on phylogenetic relations. The field is one which has as yet been little worked, but it will in the future undoubtedly become more and more fruitful.

The *Società Tipografica Editrice Barese,* of Bari, Italy, announces the forthcoming publication of a series of reprints of scientific and philosophical classics under the title, "Classici delle Scienze e della Filosofia." In some respects this series will resemble the valuable collection already issued by Ostwald in Germany, under the title "Klassiker der exakten Wissenschaften," but the venture will be on an even more ample scale; it will render easily accessible to the student of the historical development of science many classical papers which have hitherto been obtained only with great difficulty. Each volume will contain about 300 pages, and will cost about 3 lire. The whole series is under the general editorship of Messrs. Aldo Mieli and Erminio Troilo. All scientific workers will wish success to this praiseworthy enterprise. The following are specimens of the titles of volumes already issued:—Spallanzani's "Saggio sul sistema della generazione" (1777); Biringuccio's "De la Pirotechnia" (1540), vol. i., and a translation of Descartes's "Principia Philosophiæ." Amongst those to appear at an early date are Francesco Redi's "Esperienze intorno alla generazione degli insetti," Galileo's tracts on motion, and several reprints of the scientific works of Leonardo da Vinci, Volta, Giordano Bruno, and Vico, to mention only a few of those announced as already in the press.

Messrs. Novello and Co. have published a second edition of Dr. Jamieson B. Hurry's "Sumer is icumen in." The attractive volume was originally published at the time of the unveiling at Reading Abbey of a memorial tablet, bearing a facsimile of the canon, which, it may be remembered, was written by a monk at Reading Abbey, about the year 1420.

OUR ASTRONOMICAL COLUMN.

Comet 1914*a* (Kritzinger).—Circular No. 145 from the Central Bureau at Kiel contains the following elements and ephemeris, communicated by Prof. Kobold, deduced from observations on March 29, 30, and 31:—

Elements.

T = 1914 May 31·1816 M.T. Berlin.
$\omega = 67^\circ \quad 0{\cdot}95'$
$\Omega = 198 \quad 36{\cdot}68$
$i = 23 \quad 30{\cdot}86$
$\log q = 0{\cdot}09910$

Ephemeris for 12h. M.T. Berlin.

	R.A. h. m s.	Decl. ° ′	Mag.
April 8	... 16 43 30	... −3 36·4	... 10·1
9	... 46 56	... 2 53·8	
10	... 50 24	... 2 10·2	... 10·0
11	... 53 54	... 1 25·4	
12	... 16 57 27	... −0 39·9	

The ephemeris shows that the comet is reducing its southern declination; it is situated in the constellation of Ophiuchus.

The New Solar Cycle.—The long period of apparent rest which the solar atmosphere has been recently undergoing has now been broken by the comparatively large sun-spot which developed during the course of last week. The sun-spot activity of the last few years has been well summarised in the annual report of the council of the Royal Astronomical Society (*Monthly Notices,* February, 1914). In this we are told that the past year has been a year of minimum activity of sun-spots, more than a century having elapsed since the sun exhibited such complete and